

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the first two paragraphs of page 16 with the following two paragraphs:

In figure 5, a similar process occurs, a user can dial into an ISP via a modem at 28. A NAS server provides identification information to a RADIUS server at 29 and the RADIUS server looks up in the Directory to verify identification details for that user at 30. If the user is provisioned, the RADIUS server will return an IP address which will provide the level of service that a user has been specified by a user profile that is held on the Directory at 31. If the user is not provisioned, a provisional IP can be assigned to the user which allows the user to browse the registration screen only 32. The user can then enter registration details, including details of how they will pay for their use of the requested services 33 and the user registration details can then be checked 34 on the Directory to see if they are valid. When the user details are stored on the Directory, the user can then redial into the system using their new number or password which allows the user to access the system with at the level of service that they have specified 35. If the registration details are not valid, the system will not allow the user access and will register that there has been a log on failure 36.

In the case of a cable modem subscriber as shown in figure 6, the user connects into the system via a set-top box 37. The set-top box makes the DHCP request to the DHCP server which looks in the Directory to see if MAC addresses have been assigned to a provisioned user 38. If the MAC address/serial ID of the user is identified 3, the DHCP server returns the IP address and name of the TFTP file containing set-top box configuration settings to the set-top box 40, which retrieves 41 them from the TFTP server. The set-top box then configures itself using the TFTP file to provide the user with the level of service that they requested using the user profile 42. If the Mac address/serial ID is not identified, a provisional IP is assigned to the set-top box cable modem and the user is presented with a registration screen 43. The user can then enter their registration details

46 and if these are valid, user details are stored in the Directory and a set top MAC address/serial number is associated with the user 45. The user can then use the allocated MAC address/serial ID to log onto the system when they restart the set-top box. If the registration details 46 are not found to be valid a log on failure will be registered.